

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /070 W
-----051110 040655Z /10

R 021151Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7778

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1729

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SL

SUBJ: SANUSI MUSTAPHA APPOINTED MP: MORE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS
DEFECT

REF: (A) FREETOWN 1602, (B) FREETOWN 1688

1. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NEWS BULLETIN ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT ON MAY 31, OF LEADING SLPP FIGURE IN SIERRA LEONE, ALHAJI MOHAMED SANUSI MUSTAPHA, AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. ALSO APPOINTED A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IS A. D. WURIE, A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN AND A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STANDARD BANK OF SIERRA LEONE.

2. SANUSI MUSTAPHA, 75 YEARS OLD, IS A CONTEMPORARY OF PRSIDENT STEVENS, A FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN AND TITULAR HEAD OF THE SLPP. HE HAS STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN THE SLPP, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE OLDER PARTY MEMBERS AND IS VIEWED BY MANY CREOLES AS BEING LESS BRIBALLY ORIENTED THAN JUSU SHERIFF. MUSTAPHA, ALONG WITH THE LATE SIR MILTON MARGAI AND DR. JOHN KAREFA-SMART, IS A FOUNDER OF THE SLPP.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THREE ADDITIONAL SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS
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HAVE DECLARED FOR THE APC, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO FOUR. THEY ARE: MICHAEL A. F. ABDULAI - MOYAMBA NORTH, EMMANUEL GRANT - FREETOWN CENTRL II, AND DR. GEORGE PANDA - KENEMA WEST.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN EMBASSY COMMENT: WELL INFORMED LOCAL SOURCES SAY STEVENS REALIZES THAT DESPITE THE INTRODUC-TION OF A ONE PARTY STATE HE HAS NOT ACHIEVED UNIFICATION AND

THAT MENDE OPPOSITION TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS SO FORMID-
ABLE THAT VIOLENCE IS LIKELY TO ERUPT BEFORE THE END OF THE
YEAR. TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL UNITY, STEVENS BELIEVES EITHER
MUSTAPHA OR JUSU SHERIFF MUST BE NAMED A VICE PRESENT.
ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, BOTH MEN HAVE BEEN ASKED IF THEY
WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AN APPOINTMENT AND BOTH HAVE INDICATED THEY
MIGHT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, NAMELY GUARANTEES OF TENURE.

5. HOWCERER, IF EITHER IS APPOINTED A VICE PRESIDENT THEN
EITHER VICE PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA OR PRIME MINISTER KAMARA-
TAYLOR MUST BE DROPPED AND THIS ALSO WOULD POSE CONSIDERABLE
PROBLEMS FOR STEVENS. RUMORS ABOUND IN FREETOWN THAT S. I.
KOROMA WILL BE OFFERED THE POST OF PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL,
THAT KAMARA-TAYLOR WILL BE SENT TO LONDON AS HIGH COMMISSIONER,
ETC. PROBABLY EVEN STEVENS IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME WHAT HE
WILL DO, BUT A CONSIDERABLE CABINET SHUFFLE IS EXPECTED TO
OCCUR AFTER APPROVAL OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE RECON-
VENING OF PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 16. END EMBASSY COMMENT. END
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NORTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978FREETO01729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-0758
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadlcf.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d67147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 FREETOWN 1602, 78 FREETOWN 1688
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2149412
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SANUSI MUSTAPHA APPOINTED MP: MORE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS DEFECT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SL, (MUSTAPHA, SANUSI), (WURIE, A D)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d67147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014